

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 316

Concerning efforts to avert drought and famine in Africa, particularly Ethiopia.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2000

Mr. PAYNE (for himself and Mr. CAMPBELL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concerning efforts to avert drought and famine in Africa,  
particularly Ethiopia.

Whereas the conditions in southern Ethiopia are extremely close to a famine and famine-like conditions are plaguing Somalia, Kenya, and Eritrea;

Whereas, in Konso, malaria has affected women, men, and children;

Whereas irrigation is a rarity and almost 90 percent of farming in Ethiopia depends entirely on rainfall;

Whereas Ethiopia's Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Commission appealed for help 16 months ago when cyclical droughts arose due to global weather disturbances;

Whereas the Ethiopian Government has requested 836,800 tons of emergency food aid to assist an estimated 7.7 million people;

Whereas the most severe drought conditions are in the town of Gode where carcasses of dead livestock lie in the streets;

Whereas hundreds of thousands may die from malnutrition and malnutrition-related illnesses;

Whereas the United Nations estimates that more than 16 million people are threatened by food shortages in Ethiopia and the Greater Horn of Africa;

Whereas a third of Africans live without enough water;

Whereas the United Nations World Food Program reported that an extended dry spell with only scattered rains during May and June is likely to slash crop and livestock production, further weakening the region's already precarious food situation;

Whereas in many parts of Africa, water supplies are insufficient to meet current or expected future demand during certain times of the year;

Whereas Ethiopia's demand for water can be attributed to the doubling of its population, which in the last 15 years has increased to 63 million;

Whereas the River Nile basin states (ICCON) will promulgate a 15-point document that lays out the basic principles upon which those 10 nations will act in common concerning the Nile River;

Whereas in order to achieve the shared goals of ensuring food security and preventing famine, African nations must be

knowledgeable concerning sustainable use of natural resources; and

Whereas growing populations and changing values are placing increasing demands on existing water supplies, resulting in water use conflicts: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3            (1) congratulates the Administration for pro-  
4        viding up to 500,000 metric tons of food through  
5        private voluntary organizations (PVO's), coopera-  
6        tives, and international organizations such as the  
7        World Food Program (WFP);

8            (2) congratulates the Administration for pro-  
9        viding a \$7 million annual program for a Famine  
10       Early Warning System;

11           (3) urges the Agency for International Develop-  
12       ment to provide emergency food assistance under  
13       Public Law 480, including wheat, rice, corn, and  
14       sorghum;

15           (4) encourages the Agency for International  
16       Development to provide farmer-to-farmer assistance  
17       under programs that fund technical assistance to  
18       improve food production and distribution and im-  
19       prove farming and marketing in eligible countries;

20           (5) congratulates the Ethiopian Government for  
21       going on the open market to provide 100,000 metric

1        tons of food to the southern region of Ethiopia from  
2        the food surplus region in the western part of the  
3        country;

4            (6) strongly encourages international humani-  
5        tarian organizations to provide wheat to the needed  
6        regions;

7            (7) calls on the President to work with the  
8        international community to provide funding for  
9        dams, irrigation systems, and wells to provide clean  
10       drinking water;

11           (8) encourages increased water conservation,  
12        water quality enhancement, and more efficient use of  
13        water supplies to meet increased demands on water  
14        resources;

15           (9) encourages international humanitarian or-  
16        ganizations to provide grain to the southern region  
17        of Ethiopia;

18           (10) suggests that food aid be distributed in  
19        Ethiopia before the long rains which occur in the  
20        July/August period;

21           (11) strongly urges the Nile Basin countries to  
22        engage in cooperative efforts for achieving a just  
23        share of the Nile waters for irrigation and water re-  
24        sources; and

1           (12) supports increased planning and initiatives  
2       by the Nile Basin Initiative secretariat to promote  
3       the proper use of the River Nile and to alleviate pov-  
4       erty in the region.

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